

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/ P: ESAVAGE/ VRM

3/30/73 EXT 20850

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TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: OGEN PFOR

REF: STOCKHOLM 1096

SUBJECT: STOESSEL STATEMENT ON US- SWEDISH RELATIONS

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL SPOKE ON THE RECORD AT A MARCH 29 DEPARTMENT FOREIGN POLICY CONFERENCE FOR EDITORS AND BROADCASTERS ON OUR GENERAL RELATIONS WITH EUROPE. IN THE QUESTION PERIOD, HE WAS ASKED WHETHER OUR RELATIONS WITH SWEDEN ARE NOT AT AN ALL- TIME LOW.

2. TEXT OF HIS RESPONSE FOLLOWS: QUOTE IT IS CERTAINLY TRUE THAT WE HAVE PROBLEMS IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH SWEDEN. THE CAUSE OF THIS WAS THE CRITICISM IN DECEMBER BY THE SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER OF OUR ACTIONS IN VIETNAM. IT WAS NOT JUST THAT IT WAS CRITICISM -- BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN CRITICIZED IN MANY PLACES. IT WAS THE NATURE OF THE CRITICISM. THE SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER LIKENED WHAT WE WERE DOING IN VIETNAM TO THE WORST ATROCITIES OF HITLER AND HE DID IT IN A WAY WHICH WE FELT WAS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE MAINTENANCE OF GOOD AND NORMAL RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES. WE FELT IT INDICATED THAT SWEDEN DOES NOT ATTACH A GREAT
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DEAL OF IMPORTANCE TO ITS RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.
WE REGRETTED THAT VERY MUCH BECAUSE WE DO ATTACH IMPORTANCE
TO OUR RELATIONSHIP AND WE WOULD HOPE THAT THIS CAN

IMPROVE. I CANNOT PREDICT WHEN THERE WILL BE THE
RESTORATION OF A NORMAL SITUATION. WE HOPE IT WILL BE
SOON. ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT THIS IS UNDER REVIEW AND WE
HOPE THAT SWEDEN WILL INDICATE BY HER ACTIONS THAT SHE
VALUES HER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES AS WE
VALUE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH SWEDEN. END QUOTE

3. HIS REMARKS WERE NOT INTENDED IN ANY WAY TO SIGNAL
AN IMMINENT CHANGE IN THE UNITED STATES ATTITUDE. US
RELATIONS WITH SWEDEN OF COURSE HAVE BEEN UNDER CONTINUING
REVIEW SINCE LAST DECEMBER. HOWEVER, AT YOUR DISCRETION
AND IF YOU THINK IT USEFUL TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT,
YOU MAY DRAW ON HIS REPLY IN ANSWERING QUESTIONS WHICH
MAY ARISE ON THIS SCORE. RUSH

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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